



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership

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Pre Copenhagen questions for Ed Miliband By Martin Stott

After Saturday 5th of Decembers hugely successful Wave demonstration in London, a group of representatives from Stop Climate Chaos coalition met with climate change Minister, Ed Miliband. He pitched up in jeans, t-shirt and sneakers, making a joke about how officials freak out if ministers don't go to meetings in suits because they are afraid they will be lampooned for having no fashion sense and insisted on being called 'Ed' rather than 'Minister', 'Secretary of State' or 'Mr Miliband'.

However relaxed his appearance, important and serious questions were to be put to him. Some asked about financing support for developing countries, particularly Bangladesh in the light of his recent visit. His view is that most of the money should go for adaptation and that the money needs to be distributed via the UN, not via existing institutions – a position he recognised might not find support in the USA.

The coalition is broad so the questions were diverse, ranging from how to get local councils involved (need to introduce carbon budgets) and the health dimension (he seemed genuinely surprised when a medical student expressed the view that the NHS simply didn't get the issue) to why the DECC website says nothing about eating meat, being a major source of carbon emissions (he said he would make sure it was amended to point out that eating less meat was a good idea planet wise, but wasn't prepared to be any more prescriptive than that) and what to do about the state owned RBS investing millions in the exploitation of the Alberta tars sands, the question which provoked the longest round of applause – whatever that means.

I managed to pose a question to him on behalf of Practical action on the debate about 'cap and trade'. I asked if he subscribed to the view held, amongst others, by leading American

Scientist James Hansen, that C&T was simply an excuse for developed countries to continue business as usual by giving money for carbon offsets to developing countries. Ed said he was depressed by James Hansen's view and his approach was a futile recipe. The reaction from the floor was clearly more supportive of a healthy scepticism of cap and trade.

All in all a passionate and well informed discussion. Ed is very much on top of his brief – none of the questions in the hour or so session fazed him. A very impressive performance which hopefully will carry weight in Copenhagen.

Copenhagen?

What is the purpose of Copenhagen?

In Copenhagen the world will come together at the United Nations conference to agree a new international agreement to tackle climate change. The current international agreement, Kyoto Protocol, will expire in 2012. Copenhagen, in effect, will create its successor.

What is the UK Government hoping to achieve?

The Government is aiming to reach an ambitious global agreement at Copenhagen. Together, with our EU partners, the UK has already made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 level by 2020, with an offer to reduce emissions by 30 per cent if an ambitious global deal is agreed.

Why is achieving a global agreement on tackling climate change so important?

To put it simply, urgent action is required now to limit global temperature increase to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, beyond which the risks of dangerous climate change will become much greater.

To find out more www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk

Love Food, Hate Waste

Each household in Warwickshire is currently throwing away an average of £420 a year in wasted food.

Warwickshire County Council and the waste partnership are supporting WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste campaign in an attempt to get local people to think about the food they are throwing in the bin.

If you would like resources (leaflets and recipe cards) to help promote this campaign please contact Caroline Faulkner on 01926 412458 or email carolinefaulkner@warwickshire.gov.uk

News

Responsibletravel.com, the world's leading travel agent for responsible holidays, has announced that it will offer travellers a flight search which compares not only prices, but carbon emissions of different airlines for requested routes.

Following on from responsibletravel.com's carbon reduction campaign launched last month it is a move that adds a tangible dimension to the "when you fly make it count" advice set out on the carbon caution page of the site: www.responsibletravel.com/carboncaution

Created in partnership with Global Travel Market and The Carbon Consultancy the new flight search www.responsibletravel.com/carbonratedflights is just a click away, with responsibletravel.com donating 50% of income from the flight search to TravelPledge, who have committed to funding a project supporting local communities adapting to the impacts of global warming.

How does it work and what can it tell you:

- In the same way as any flight search except that it takes in to consideration both the price and efficiency of a selection of airlines on your chosen route.
- It offers a choice of provider based upon the efficiency of the equipment used for long and short haul flights
- Behind the scenes the flight search uses the published long haul fleets of individual airlines, EU aircraft fuel consumption data and emissions conversions.
- Each airline fleet assessment is based upon published manufacturers 2 class seating configuration for long haul and 1 class seating for short haul, to provide an optimised emissions estimate per available seat/per plane value. All the relevant aircraft in an airline fleet and their seat values are multiplied to create a fleet value, with separate analysis for short and long haul fleets.
- The flight selection is assessed for distance to determine short haul and long haul fleet selection. The total short/long haul fleet values are then rated to provide an indication of the most carbon friendly airline choices. This means that the carbon rating of the airline links to both the statistical probability of the plane types you will travel on when flying and aircraft performance.

For further information and advice see www.responsibletravel.com/carboncaution

Have your say

This is your newsletter and your opportunity to publicise any events you may be holding, and let other groups know what you are currently up to share your experiences. What do you want to see in future editions?

Please send all comments or enquiries about this newsletter and suggestions, for news items, case studies, details of events etc to

emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk

Tip Off the Month

Electronic toys and gizmos are popular gifts at Christmas, but the batteries that power them are energy intensive to make and can leak nasty chemical after disposal. Why not buy a set of rechargeable batteries and a solar charger.